CLAIMS

1. A method of processing order information from a customer, comprising:

receiving at least one projected requirement from a customer, said projected requirement including a projected quantity and a projected date on which said projected quantity will be required by said customer;

generating a pull order using said at least one projected requirement, said pull order including a predicted quantity of end products and a predicted date on which said predicted quantity will be required by said customer;

directing production of said predicted quantity;

receiving at least one standard order from said customer, said standard order including a quantity required immediately by said customer;

decrementing said predicted quantity by said immediately required quantity; and

directing delivery of said immediately required quantity to said customer.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said at least one standard order includes a plurality of delivery destinations, and said act of directing delivery includes directing a subset of said immediately required quantity to each of said delivery destinations.

3. A method as in claim 1, further comprising debiting an account of said customer according to a current price of said immediately required quantity.

4. A method as in claim 3, wherein said account is debited when said immediately required quantity is shipped to said customer.

5. A method as in claim 1, wherein said at least one projected requirement is received via the Internet.

6. A method as in claim 1, wherein said at least one standard order is received via the Internet.

7. A method as in claim 1, wherein when said immediately required quantity is available for immediate delivery, said act of directing delivery is performed immediately and without operator intervention.

8. A method as in claim 1, wherein when said immediately required quantity is not available for immediate delivery, said act of directing delivery is performed immediately and without operator intervention as to an immediately available subset of said immediately required quantity, production is directed of a remainder of said immediately required quantity, and said act of directing delivery is performed at a later time for said remainder of said immediately required quantity.

9. A method as in claim 1, further comprising directing production of an additional quantity in addition to said predicted quantity to protect against last minute revisions of said projected requirements of said customer.

10. A method as in claim 9, further comprising reserving said additional quantity for delivery only to said customer.

11. A method as in claim 1, further comprising identifying at least one sub-assembly included in said pull order capable of inclusion in a plurality of different end products.

12. A method as in claim 11, wherein said act of generating said pull order includes generating a Global Bill of Materials (BOM) for each said at least one sub-assembly of said pull order.

13. A method as in claim 12, wherein said act of generating said Global Bill of Materials (BOM) includes taking manufacturing yield and manufacturing interval into account.

14. A system for processing order information from a customer, comprising:

a receiver module for receiving at least one projected requirement from a customer and receiving at least one standard order from said customer, said projected requirement including a projected quantity and a projected date on which said projected quantity will be required by said customer and said standard order including a quantity required immediately by said customer;

a process module for generating a pull order using said at least one projected requirement, said pull order including a predicted quantity of end products and a predicted date on which said predicted quantity will be required by said customer;

a planning and manufacturing module for directing production of said predicted quantity;

an order management and planning module for decrementing said predicted quantity by said immediately required quantity; and

a logistics module for directing delivery of said immediately required quantity to said customer.

15. A system as in claim 14, wherein said process module is configured to identify at least one sub-assembly included in said pull order capable of inclusion in a plurality of different end products.

16. A system as in claim 14, wherein said at least one standard order includes a plurality of delivery destinations, and said logistics module directs delivery of a subset of said immediately required quantity to each of said delivery destinations.

17. A system as in claim 14, wherein said order management and planning module debits an account of said customer according to a current price of said immediately required quantity.

18. A system as in claim 14, wherein said receiver module is coupled to receive data via an electronic data interchange (EDI) system.

19. A system as in claim 14, wherein said receiver module is configured to receive data from a manufacturing and resource planning (MRP) system of said customer.

20. A system for processing order information from a customer, comprising:

a plurality of modules configured for processing said order information, said plurality of modules running on one or more processors and comprising:

a receiver module for receiving at least one projected requirement from a customer and receiving at least one standard order from said customer, said projected requirement including a projected quantity and a projected date on which said projected quantity will be required by said customer and said standard order including a quantity required immediately by said customer;

a process module for generating a pull order using said at least one projected requirement, said pull order including a predicted quantity of end products and a predicted date on which said predicted quantity will be required by said customer, said process module identifying at least one sub-assembly included in said pull order capable of inclusion in a plurality of different end products;

a planning and manufacturing module for directing production of said predicted quantity, including said at least one sub-assembly;

an order management and planning module for decrementing said predicted quantity by said immediately required quantity; and

a logistics module for directing delivery of said immediately required quantity to said customer.

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